

Green County
Agriculture and Extension Education Committee
June 3, 2020 MINUTES

The June 3rd, 2020 meeting of the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee was called to order at 12:31 PM by Extension Green County Ag and Extension Chair, Erica Roth.

Members present were: Erica Roth, Oscar Olson, Art Carter, and Dawn Sass. Sue Nelson was absent. Also present—Jayne Butts, Extension Green County Office Manager; and via zoom methods—Paul Ohlrogge, Extension Area Director; Kevin Masarik-Groundwater Education Specialist; Joe Bonnell, Natural Resources Educator; Jackie McCarville, Agriculture Educator; Ellen Andrews, 4-H Youth Development Educator; Victoria Solomon, Community Resource Development Educator; Donna Peterson, FoodWise Coordinator; and Hannah McMunn, Health & Well Being Educator.

Green County Educator Reports—

Victoria Solomon with Kevin Masarik and Joe Bonnell—Water Trends Updates

Victoria discussed how the Water Trends Study came to be based on the Livestock Facility Study done in 2018. Green County is the second county in the state to enter into this type of study. (Chippewa County was first, followed by us, then Sauk County and Dodge County). Victoria introduced Kevin Masarik, Groundwater Specialist-UW Stevens Point, and Joe Bonnell, Natural Resources Educator. Kevin discussed how the study is laid out to test wells every year for 5 years. There are 778 wells in County and close to 50% have chosen to participate. (388 people). Sample bottles were sent in January 2020. Of those 388, 342 were returned for sampling. This is great as they were hoping for 240 wells per year. Kevin shared a website where interactive results will be posted for people to access. While it is still a work in progress, many areas were able to be highlighted as to how they function. A more complete review of information will be shared at an upcoming County Board meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 2020 meeting was made by Carter, second Olson. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed the UW-Extension office bills for May 2020. The EFT payments totaled \$57.20 and the check payments totaled \$575.04. Motion made by Olson, second by Sass to approve the vouchers for payment. Motion carried.

Paul Ohlrogge, Area Extension Director/Jayne Butts, Office Manager, Extension Green County:

Appreciation: Ohlrogge noted he was very appreciative for thoughtfulness from all of Green County during this difficult time. His family has really appreciated so many thoughts and concerns.

Area 17 Zoom—Ohlrogge discussed meeting (via zoom) with Area 17 Educators and is pleased our area is fully staffed.

COVID-19 Work from Home Updates: Ohlrogge noted per a directive from UW Madison, educators are still working from home via teleconference. As time progresses, social distancing will continue to be practiced through the end of June. June is however the transitional month and beginning in July, we may enter the 2nd phase of opening up, which could include meetings of up to ten people. Following CDC guidelines, face masks and good social distancing techniques will be priorities for such meetings. Andrews discussed being flexible as things are changing for 4-H experiences right now with creative virtual meeting opportunities. Solomon noted businesses have been very supportive of virtual contact. Carter noted while these opportunities present ways to communicate, you still can't beat personal connections.

Wisconsin Counties Association –Annual Conference (Sept 20-22, 2020): Butts presented brochures about the Wisconsin Counties Conference to be held at the Wisconsin Dells. Currently, the plan is for an in person meeting, however, virtual plans are being discussed if they need to change direction. The county does pay for board members to go if anyone is interested. Solomon noted she is on a team presenting at that conference.

University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension – Furlough Days – Ohlrogge noted this policy started in May and goes through October, as a means to save money for UW-Madison. This procedure is not new to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and occurred in previous years for budgetary reasons at that time. Ohlrogge noted this will also include some savings to counties and will be reflected in a future invoice. Currently three suggested dates have been designated – May 22nd, July 6th, and September 4th.

Other Business

Extension Green County Office Re-Opening Prep—Butts noted as we prepare for full office opening, plexi-glass is being installed over the front counter for social distancing protection. In addition, a mask (made using SSM Health Care guidelines) was purchased for each employee from a local Green County resident, in addition to other masks provided by Emergency Management.

Green County Fair Updates- Butts discussed the decision of the fair will be made at a meeting on Thursday night by the Green County Fair Board. Andrews said 4-H volunteers, 4-H Food Stand, 4-H Awards Program, and many other 4-H events will not be held. Per direction from UW-Madison, educators Andrews and McCarville will not be able to be present at the fair as well. Butts said an employee of SSM Monroe Clinic was advised by her bosses, if she attends with her children, she will need to quarantine for two weeks after the event. The Fair Board has been reviewing alternate ideas, including a virtual fair or a junior exhibitor only fair, with many details to be figured out. Butts questioned direction for participation at the fair for support staff, noting the County has done a lot to protect employees and working at the site for this event may counteract the protective measures already in place. Chairperson Roth noted if safe social distancing procedures and practices cannot be maintained while assisting at the fair, we should not be present. Butts noted our office can still provide support behind the scenes to offer assistance.

The next meeting will be scheduled for July 1st or August 5th, contingent on business to be discussed. Butts will notify committee members ahead of the July 1st date if needed.

Motion by Carter, second by Olson to adjourn at 1:55 pm. Motion carried.